31,534-02

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anchor for securing a suture to bone, comprising:

an elongated body having a proximal region terminating in a proximal end, and a distal region with a successively narrower cross-section terminating in a distal end to facilitate insertion into a hole drilled in the bone;

means, disposed in said proximal region, for engaging a driver for insertion of said anchor into the drilled hole;

at least one ridge, disposed about the exterior surface of said body, for engaging the bone after insertion to resist withdrawal of said anchor; and

means, defined in said elongated body, for carrying a portion of the suture to hold the suture at a selected position in the bone.

2. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said means for engaging includes means for interlocking with a corresponding element of the driver.

3. The anchor of Claim 2 in which said means for interlocking includes a force-fit established between said means for engaging and the corresponding driver element.

4. The anchor of Claim 2 in which said means for interlocking includes one of a detent and a recess which interlocks with a matching recess or detent, respectively, of the corresponding driver element.

5. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said means for engaging includes a socket defined by said elongated body which has an opening communicating with said proximal end of said body.

6. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said means for engaging includes a projection extending proximally from said elongated body for engaging a matching socket in the driver.

7. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said elongated body is substantially cylindrical.

8. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said elongated body is substantially circular in cross-section to facilitate insertion into a round drilled hole having a lesser diameter than the outer diameter of said ridge.

9. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said distal end is substantially rounded.

10. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said ridge is continuous about said elongated body.

11. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said ridge includes a bone engaging surface and an inclined leading surface which extends from said bone engaging surface distally and inwardly to said elongated body.

12. The anchor of Claim 11 in which said bone engaging surface is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of said elongated body.

13. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said means for carrying includes a passage traversing said elongated body through which the portion of the suture is insertable.

14. The anchor of Claim 13 in which said passage is disposed between said means for engaging and said ridge.

15. The anchor of Claim 13 in which said means for carrying further includes a pair of grooves extending proximally from said passage to said proximal end of said elongated body.

16. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said elongated body is formed of a polymer having sufficient resiliency to enable said means for engaging to form a force-fit engagement with the driver.

17. The anchor of Claim 16 in which said polymer is bioabsorbable.

18. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said means for engaging is narrower in cross-section along a first dimension than along another cross-sectional dimension.

19. The anchor of Claim 5 in which said socket is narrower in cross-section along a first dimension than along another cross-sectional dimension.

20. The anchor of Claim 19 in which said socket also becomes smaller in width in said first dimension progressing distally to a distal base of said socket.

21. The anchor of Claim 1 in which said elongated body further defines a passageway for receiving a guide wire during insertion of said anchor.

22. The anchor of Claim 21 in which said passageway does not intersect said means for carrying.

23. An anchor for securing a suture to bone, comprising:

an elongated, substantially cylindrical body having a proximal region terminating in a proximal end, and a distal region with a successively narrower cross-section terminating in a distal end to facilitate insertion into a hole drilled in the bone;

means, disposed in said proximal region, for interlocking with a corresponding element of a driver for pushable insertion of said anchor into the drilled hole and for resisting separation from the driver;

at least one ridge disposed about the exterior surface of said body for engaging the bone after insertion to resist withdrawal of said anchor; and

a passage, defined by said elongated body, for carrying a portion of the suture to hold the suture at a selected position in the bone.

24. The anchor of Claim 23 in which said means for interlocking includes a socket defined by said elongated body which has an opening communicating with said proximal end of said body.

25. The anchor of Claim 24 in which said socket is narrower in cross-section along a first dimension than along another cross-sectional dimension.

26. The anchor of Claim 25 in which said socket also becomes smaller in width in said first dimension progressing distally to a distal base of said socket.

27. The anchor of Claim 25 in which said ridge is continuous about said elongated body and includes a bone engaging surface and an inclined leading surface which extends from said bone engaging surface distally and inwardly to said elongated body.

28. The anchor of Claim 27 in which said means for carrying further includes a pair of grooves extending proximally from said passage to said proximal end of said elongated body.

29. The anchor of Claim 28 in which said elongated body is formed of a polymer having sufficient resiliency to enable said means for interlocking to form a force-fit engagement with the driver.

30. The anchor of Claim 23 in which said elongated body further defines a passageway for receiving a guide wire during insertion of said anchor and in which said passageway does not intersect said means for carrying.

31. An anchor and driver assembly comprising:

an anchor member including an elongated body having a proximal region terminating in a proximal end, and a distal region with a successively narrower cross-section terminating in a distal end to facilitate insertion into a hole drilled in a bone;

a driver member having a handle member and a shaft member, said shaft member having a drive element at its distal end;

means, disposed in said proximal region, for releasably engaging said driver for insertion of said anchor into the drilled hole;

at least one ridge, disposed about the exterior surface of said body, for engaging the bone after insertion to resist withdrawal of said anchor; and

means, defined by said elongated body, for carrying a portion of a suture to hold the suture at a selected position in the bone.

32. The assembly of Claim 31 wherein said shaft member has a projecting member thereon as said drive element and said anchor member has a socket therein, said socket and said projecting member being dimensioned to allow mating assembly of said anchor member on said shaft member.

33. The assembly of Claim 31 wherein said driver member has suture fixation means thereon for securely retaining a different portion of the suture to assist attachment of said anchor member to said shaft member.

34. The assembly of Claim 33 further comprising at least one groove on said shaft member in which the suture is positionable.

35. The assembly of Claim 34 wherein said suture fixation means includes opposing posts and two opposed grooves are provided on said shaft member in alignment with said posts.

36. The assembly of Claim 31 wherein said driver member has a passageway therethrough, and said anchor member has an opening therein communicatable with said passageway and with said means for carrying the portion of the suture.

37. The assembly of Claim 36 further comprising a suture member attached to said anchor member by said means for carrying, passing through said opening, and being positioned in said passageway.

38. The assembly of Claim 31 further comprising a guide member for limiting the depth of insertion of the anchor member.

39. The assembly of Claim 38 wherein said guide member comprises a hollow cylinder positionable over said shaft member.

40. The assembly of Claim 38 wherein said guide member is defined by an integral shoulder of said shaft member.

41. The anchor of Claim 32 in which said socket is narrower in cross-section along a first dimension than along another dimension.

42. The anchor of Claim 31 in which said anchor member and said driver member each define a passageway alignable with each other to receive a guide wire through both said passageways to assist placement during insertion of said anchor member.